(3) that the Forest Rules should be confined to the administration of the real forests and should, on no account, be made applicable to the cardamom growing areas ; and

(4) that the Anjanad ryots be permitted to resort to hill cultivation as before.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

16. Damage done to estates by wild elephants.

Mr. W. A. J. Milner (Member, Central Travancore Planters' Association) who was permitted to represent his Association in the place of Mr. Robert Tait first elected, submitted that considerable damage was done to estates in the planting districts by wild elephants. The damage had been very serious of late everywhere, especially in Vandiperiyar and its neighbourhood, it having amounted to a considerable sum. It did not seem fair that money invested to the benefit of the country should be liable to be lost in that manner and there was no doubt that elephants were steadily increasing in number of recent years, so that urgent action was required, if the evil was to be checked in time.

It was true that, under Section 46 of the Forest Regulation, owners of private property had the right to shoot elephants trespassing on their lands. But planters did not avail themselves of the right, because the Forest Department was in the habit of prosecuting them, if they did so. The Member, therefore, proposed that the second exemption under Section 46 be amended as follows, *viz.*:—

"That persons shooting or wounding elephants in self-defence or for the protection of property shall be exempted from punishment *as well as persons shooting or wounding elephants in reasonable proximity to their property.*"

The Member submitted that, in any case, there should be an immediate enquiry, before prosecution, conducted on the spot by a Magistrate or other responsible person.

Dewan.—I suppose that it is done even now by the Divisional Forest Officer.

Member.—I understand that it is a very subordinate officer that is doing this work. I think that the Mahazar at least should be written by a responsible officer of the department.

The Member concluded by saying that, if adequate protection on the lines suggested could not be given, Government should grant full compensation for all damage done to property.

Dewan's reply.—The Commissioner, Devicolam Division, and the Conservator of Forests, will be consulted before any action is taken.

17. Need for promulgating rules under the Game and Fish Protection Regulation with a view to render its provisions effective.

Mr. A. J. Wright (Member, Kannan Devan Planters' Association) said that, for the past seven years, the subject of Game laws had been before the Assembly in one form or another. He then explained the history of the present legislation on the subject and observed that his object was to draw the attention of Government to the absence of rules contemplated in the Regulation. Last year, the Dewan replied that draft rules had been received from the Conservator of Forests and the Commissioner of Devicolam and were under the consideration of Government. But, so far, nothing had been done.

Dewan.—The question has been referred to the Head Sirkar Vakil for his opinion.

The Member thanked the Dewan and observed that the delay in passing the rules was very much regretted, for no one could prevent the promiscuous slaughter of game going on now.

The Member then referred to his representations at the 9th and 13th sessions of the Assembly when the various aspects of the matter were dealt with. Between the years 1908 and 1913, the Association had spent about Rs. 5,000 in introducing trout into

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the rivers and streams in the High Range and further sums had since been expended. A certain measure of success had been achieved, but, for two years now, they had been without any legal protection and any one could capture the results of their efforts with impunity. A considerable revenue to Government from the fees to be levied for licenses under the Regulation was also being lost. A good deal of money had been spent and more would be readily spent in the interests of sport and the preservation and protection of game in the country. In conclusion, he trusted that it would be found possible and expedient to publish the necessary rules to make the Regulation effective at a very early date.

Dewan's reply.—The Head Sirkar Vakil will be asked to forward his opinion soon and steps taken to issue the rules as early as possible.

(3) SALT.

18. Development of the manufacture of local salt.

Mr. N. Raman Pillai (Member, Karthigapalli Taluk) said that, of the total quantity of over 10 lakhs of maunds of salt consumed in the State during 1092, the quantity of home salt was only 4½ lakhs of maunds and that the balance was foreign salt imported into the State. The import of foreign salt was disadvantageous both to the Government and the people. There were many lands in South Travancore and in the taluks of Karunagapalli and Karthigapalli where salt could be manufactured on an extensive scale. Salt was required not only as an article of food, but also for curing fish and for the preparation of artificial manure. It was, therefore, necessary that salt should be given to the people at the cheapest rate, and that could be done by the manufacture of local salt on a larger scale. During 1092, a quantity of nearly 6 lakhs of maunds of salt was manufactured on an area of 301 acres of lands. An additional area of not less than 500 acres could be converted into salt *allams* in South Travancore and in Puthupalli in the Karunagapalli taluk, and Muthukulam and Keerikad in the Karthigapalli taluk. If salt was manufactured in the above areas also, the total quantity of home salt would be more than what was required for local consumption. The Member, therefore, prayed that—

(1) the number of existing salt *allams* should be increased ; and

(2) the people should be encouraged to start salt *allams* and to manufacture local salt on an extensive scale under the supervision of Government.

Mr. P. Ponniah Nadar (Member, Nominated) said that the quantity of salt produced in the State was insufficient to meet the requirements of the country. He understood that the Government realised the situation and that the Excise Commissioner and the Chief Engineer were to find out suitable localities for the extension of salt manufacture. He was of opinion that no time should be lost in carrying out the idea.

Dewan's reply.—Noted. The Excise Commissioner is of opinion that the soil of the places referred to in the Karunagapalli and Karthigapalli taluks is not good for the manufacture of salt.

(4) EXCISE, TRADE AND CUSTOMS.

19. Unlicensed Toddy Shops.

Mr. J. R. Vincent (Member, Mundakayam Planters' Association) requested that Government should endeavour to suppress unlicensed toddy shops and make a change in the policy of issuing licenses for toddy and arrack shops in Planting Districts or in the vicinity of Estates. The number of unlicensed shops was considerably on the increase; and, judging by the quantity of liquor obtained by Estate coolies, it was evident that Government were losing a large amount of revenue each year. That itself was serious, but what mostly affected the planters was the fact that, owing to the practically unrestricted sale of liquor, their coolies were demoralised, that brawls occurred in which knives were freely used and that the coolies were greatly impoverished. He would urge the necessity of stricter supervision, the removal of the shops, and the award of adequate punishment to the persons running them. His Association was always ready to furnish information

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